



Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Adelita S. Orefice  
Director

Volume 16 No. 8

August 2004

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines Slightly in July

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped 0.1 of a percentage point in July to 5.7 percent, while the number of unemployed residents fell by 600 to an estimated 32,700. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and the number of unemployed stood at 30,700. Nationally, the unemployment rate for July inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.5 percent. The national rate has shown little movement since December 2003. Rhode Island's unemployment rate surpassed the national average for the second straight month and the third time in four months.

"Labor market conditions showed some improvement in July as the unemployment rate declined slightly and the number of jobs grew for the third straight month," said DLT Director Adelita S. Orefice. "We're encouraged to see that Rhode Island businesses are adding jobs, and we're hopeful that the trend in job growth will continue over the next several months."

The Rhode Island job count increased in July, the third consecutive month of growth following two successive months of reduced employment. Businesses in the state reported an increase of 1,200 jobs, bringing the July job count to 489,900 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month employment gains were reflected in Leisure & Hospitality (+900) and Construction (+100). In contrast, employment declines were reported in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400); Professional & Business Services (-400); Government (-300); and Manufacturing (-200). Since July 2003, jobs are up 4,400 mainly due to increased employment in Leisure & Hospitality (+1,800); Construction (+1,100); and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+800).  
(Continued on Page 4)

## Results from the Health Care & Social Assistance Job Vacancy Survey Now Available!

The Labor Market Information unit has completed its Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) of Rhode Island's Health Care & Social Assistance industry sector. More than 700 establishments were randomly selected to voluntarily participate in this survey, conducted in Spring 2004. What is the demand for workers in Health Care & Social Assistance industries? How long have these job openings been available? What are the educational and experience requirements for reported openings? Are they part-time or full-time positions and do they offer benefits? Job Vacancy Surveys provide insight into these and many other labor market questions. Statistical highlights from this survey include:

- **Statewide, there were an estimated 2,894 job vacancies in the state's Health Care & Social Assistance industry sector.** This represents a job vacancy rate of 4.1%, or four job openings for every one hundred filled.
- **More than half of all estimated vacancies were in three occupations: Registered Nurses; Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants; and Personal & Home Care Aides.**
- **The median wage offered by employers across all vacancies was \$11.00 per hour.**
- **Eleven industries reported job vacancy rates above the industry sector average of 4.1%.** Higher job vacancy rates indicate a greater demand for workers, perhaps due to increased business, high labor turnover, or an abundant level of part-time or per-diem work.  
(Continued on Page 4)

## A Fresh, New Look for the Employment Bulletin

Next month's issue will mark the debut of a new format for the Employment Bulletin. While the newsletter will continue to provide narrative information and data tables on labor market activity in Rhode Island, it will be more streamlined and easier to read. A new feature will be the addition of seasonally adjusted industry employment data. Watch for the redesigned Employment Bulletin in early October!

## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics\*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03
Civilian Labor Force	572.2	569.2	575.5	579.9	572.4	582.8
Resident Employment	539.5	535.9	544.8	546.5	539.6	551.9
Unemployment	32.7	33.3	30.7	33.4	32.8	31.0
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.8%	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%	5.3%

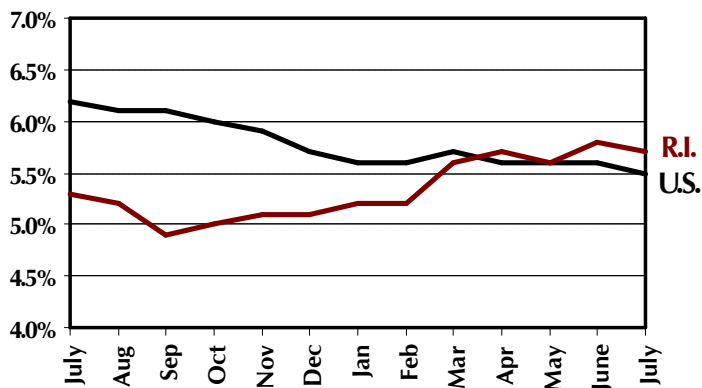
## United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03
Civilian Labor Force	147,856	147,279	146,652	149,217	148,478	147,822
Resident Employment	139,660	139,031	137,604	140,700	139,861	138,503
Unemployment	8,196	8,248	9,048	8,518	8,616	9,319
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.6%	6.2%	5.7%	5.8%	6.3%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2003-2004



## City & Town

### Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul 04	Jul 03**
Barrington	3.2	3.0
Bristol	4.9	4.4
Burrillville	6.2	6.1
Central Falls	8.2	8.3
Charlestown	5.3	5.2
Coventry	6.0	5.1
Cranston	6.1	5.3
Cumberland	5.7	5.1
East Greenwich	4.8	4.7
East Providence	6.1	5.3
Exeter	5.1	4.0
Foster	8.4	6.1
Glocester	3.8	3.9
Hopkinton	5.4	4.6
Jamestown	3.0	2.7
Johnston	6.6	5.8
Lincoln	4.8	5.0
Little Compton	3.3	2.8
Middletown	4.6	3.6
Narragansett	2.9	2.5
New Shoreham	1.4	0.8
Newport	3.7	3.6
North Kingstown	3.9	3.7
North Providence	6.3	5.7
North Smithfield	5.0	4.5
Pawtucket	7.0	6.8
Portsmouth	3.4	3.0
Providence	7.3	6.9
Richmond	3.0	2.8
Scituate	6.6	6.6
Smithfield	5.3	4.9
South Kingstown	3.9	3.7
Tiverton	6.0	5.3
Warren	5.7	4.9
Warwick	5.7	4.8
West Greenwich	5.9	4.6
West Warwick	5.9	5.8
Westerly	3.6	3.7
Woonsocket	6.4	7.1
State of R.I.	5.8	5.3

\*\*Revised

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jul	Jun	Jul	% Change		Year to Date		
	2004	2004	2003	Jun 04	Jul 03	2004	2003	% Change
Initial Claims	6,673	8,146	7,383	-18.1%	-9.6%	50,762	56,402	-10.0%
Number of Payments	51,489	50,399	58,316	2.2%	-11.7%	413,333	449,960	-8.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$15.4	\$16.0	\$16.6	-3.8%	-7.2%	\$129.8	\$134.8	-3.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,143	1,473	1,504	-22.4%	-24.0%	10,076	11,244	-10.4%

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi). If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or e-mail us at [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us).

\*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

**Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island**  
**Not Seasonally Adjusted**  
**July 2004**

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Jul 2004	Jun 2004	Jul 2003	Jun 2004	Jul 2003
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>486.3</b>	<b>493.6</b>	<b>482.1</b>	<b>-7,300</b>	<b>4,200</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>-3,100</b>	<b>700</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	23.9	23.2	22.7	700	1,200
Specialty Trade Contractors	15.3	15.0	14.8	300	500
Manufacturing	55.0	58.8	55.5	-3,800	-500
Durable Goods	35.1	37.6	36.1	-2,500	-1,000
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.9	7.6	7.5	-700	-600
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.1	5.1	-100	-100
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.0	3.9	3.6	100	400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.0	11.0	10.1	-1,000	-100
Jewelry & Silverware	7.0	7.8	7.0	-800	0
Non-Durable Goods	19.9	21.2	19.4	-1,300	500
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	100
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.3	2.9	-100	300
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>407.2</b>	<b>411.4</b>	<b>403.7</b>	<b>-4,200</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.3	16.5	100	-100
Retail Trade	53.4	53.4	52.9	0	500
Grocery Stores	6.8	6.9	6.8	-100	0
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0
General Merchandise Stores	9.9	10.1	9.8	-200	100
Department Stores	4.0	4.1	4.2	-100	-200
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.4	12.0	10.8	-600	600
Transportation & Warehousing	10.3	10.9	9.6	-600	700
Information	10.8	10.7	11.1	100	-300
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	200
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.3	33.5	34.0	-200	-700
Finance & Insurance	26.7	26.9	27.5	-200	-800
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	13.0	13.1	12.8	-100	200
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.3	10.4	10.9	-100	-600
Professional & Business Services	49.7	50.3	50.6	-600	-900
Professional & Technical Services	19.3	19.4	19.3	-100	0
Administrative & Waste Services	22.6	22.9	23.6	-300	-1,000
Educational Services	17.5	17.5	16.4	0	1,100
Colleges & Universities	10.7	10.7	10.1	0	600
Health Care & Social Assistance	72.1	72.2	70.4	-100	1,700
Ambulatory Health Care Services	21.3	21.3	20.2	0	1,100
Hospitals	22.6	22.6	22.7	0	-100
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	18.1	18.0	17.6	100	500
Social Assistance	10.1	10.3	9.9	-200	200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.9	8.6	9.4	300	-500
Accommodation & Food Services	47.0	46.0	45.6	1,000	1,400
Accommodation	5.4	4.9	5.1	500	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	41.6	41.1	40.5	500	1,100
Other Services	24.2	23.9	23.6	300	600
Government	62.5	67.0	62.4	-4,500	100
Federal Government	9.9	9.9	10.1	0	-200
State Government	16.9	17.6	17.2	-700	-300
Local Government	35.7	39.5	35.1	-3,800	600
Local Education	20.9	25.5	21.7	-4,600	-800
Local Non-Ed	14.8	14.0	13.4	800	1,400

Some subcategories are not additive.

Current month figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Declines Slightly in July

(Continued from Page 1)

The more detailed unadjusted estimates decreased by 7,300 (-1.5%) over the month, which was a smaller-than-expected July decline. The drop in the number of jobs is mainly due to temporary factory shutdowns and school closings that typically occur this time of year. Despite the monthly downturn, the July job count stood at 486,300 (unadjusted), the highest July job count on record. The largest employment losses occurred in Government (-4,500) and Manufacturing (-3,800). Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-600) and Professional & Business Services (-600) also reported decreases. Seasonal increases in Accommodation & Food Services (+1,000) and Construction (+700) partially offset these losses.

The over-the-month decrease in Government and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities is reflective of the end of the school year, affecting both public education and school bus drivers. Manufacturing experienced a smaller-than-anticipated decline resulting from the seasonal July factory shutdowns, while Professional & Business Services also reported seasonal losses. The seasonal increase in Accommodation & Food Services was equally divided between lodging and restaurants. The continued good weather helped to boost Construction employment over the month.

Over the year, employment was up 4,200 (+0.9%) from the 482,100 jobs (revised) reported in July 2003. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,700); Accommodation & Food Services (+1,400); Construction (+1,200); and Educational Services (+1,100). The largest private employment losses occurred in Professional & Business Services (-900); Financial Activities (-700); Manufacturing (-500); and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-500). Government employment increased by 100 over the year, as job gains on the Local level (+600) overshadowed losses in the Federal (-200) and State (-300) segments.

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	189.4	189.7	183.9	3.0%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Results from the Health Care & Social Assistance Job Vacancy Survey Now Available!

(Continued from Page 1)

- **Nearly 40% of the reported job vacancies were being constantly recruited for or were always open for hire.** Job vacancy duration can be correlated with workforce shortages, high turnover, or an underskilled/underqualified workforce.
- **A college education was required for more than one-third of reported Health Care & Social Assistance vacancies.**
- **Although more than half of all estimated vacancies were part-time positions, benefit levels remained high.** More than two-thirds of the reported openings offered health insurance and 60% had a retirement savings plan or pension. Over 70% offered paid sick leave or vacation, while 40% enticed perspective hires with tuition reimbursement.

For further information on this survey and detailed Health Care & Social Assistance job vacancy statistics, including a four-page summary brochure and 36-page booklet, please visit [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm). You may also contact Nick Ucci at (401) 462-8429 or [nucci@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:nucci@dlt.state.ri.us) with your JVS questions and requests.

## Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted July 2004

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03	Jun 04	Jul 03	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jul 03
<b>Manufacturing</b>	55.0	58.8	55.5	-3,800	-500	38.3	39.6	38.3	13.08	13.04	12.87
<b>Durable Goods</b>	35.1	37.6	36.1	-2,500	-1,000	38.8	39.8	37.3	13.07	13.03	12.88
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	6.9	7.6	7.5	-700	-600	38.1	39.1	38.3	11.75	11.70	11.49
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.1	5.1	-100	-100	37.8	36.8	37.2	13.85	13.80	13.63
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	4.0	3.9	3.6	100	400	40.2	40.2	40.4	15.47	15.47	15.41
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.0	11.0	10.1	-1,000	-100	37.3	38.1	36.6	10.84	10.80	10.48
Jewelry and Silverware	7.0	7.8	7.0	-800	0	38.5	39.0	37.6	10.17	10.13	9.90
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	19.9	21.2	19.4	-1,300	500	37.4	39.3	40.1	13.10	13.06	12.85
Chemical Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	100	40.9	40.7	40.9	15.30	15.35	15.61
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.2	3.3	2.9	-100	300	40.0	41.0	39.0	14.69	14.62	14.64

## **CAREER FAIRS, EXPOS, RESUME SEMINARS TAKE CENTER STAGE**

The Employer Service Unit (ESU) will be involved in a multitude of events during the fall designed to provide job seekers with quality employment opportunities and with local companies who are developing their business horizons and need to hire quality workers. In addition, the Unit has been conducting resume critiquing seminars in anticipation of upcoming job fairs and expos. These tutorials are designed to coincide with an impending career fair to insure that the job seeker is prepared to present a resume that is attractive, accurate and effective. The following is an extensive list of the ambitious ESU schedule.

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Time:</u></b>	<b><u>Event:</u></b>	<b><u>Place:</u></b>
<b>9/7 – 9/17/04</b>	<b>Midnight – Midnight</b>	<b>Citadel Broadcasting Virtual Career Fair</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ricareerfair.com">www.ricareerfair.com</a></b>
<b>9/16/04</b>	<b>9:00am-Noon</b>	<b>Resume Critique (prior to ProJo's Medical/BioTech Fair)</b>	<b>netWORKri – Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick</b>
<b>9/20 – 9/24/04</b>	<b>8:30am-6:00pm</b>	<b>Stop &amp; Shop Recruitment</b>	<b>368-398 Cottager St., Pawt.</b>
<b>9/21/04</b>	<b>12:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>ProJo Medical/Biotech Career Fair</b>	<b>Crown Plaza, Warwick</b>
<b>9/22/04</b>	<b>10:00am-7:00pm</b>	<b>Job Corps Recruitment</b>	<b>162 Main St., Exeter</b>
<b>9/24/04</b>	<b>9:00am-Noon</b>	<b>Resume Critique (prior to Employment Guide Fair)</b>	<b>netWORKri – Pawtucket</b>
<b>9/28/04</b>	<b>10:00am-3:00pm</b>	<b>Employment Guide Career Fair</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium-Foxboro, MA</b>
<b>10/18/04</b>	<b>8:00am-4:00pm</b>	<b>Partnerships to Employment Conference</b>	<b>Crown Plaza, Warwick</b>
<b>10/21/04</b>	<b>1:00pm-7:00pm</b>	<b>North Central Chamber-Small Business Expo</b>	<b>Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln</b>
<b>10/21/04</b>	<b>9:00am-Noon</b>	<b>Resume Critique (prior to ProJo's Workforce Fair)</b>	<b>netWORKri – Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick</b>
<b>10/26/04</b>	<b>12:00pm-5:00pm</b>	<b>ProJo Workforce Career Fair</b>	<b>RI Convention Center</b>
<b>11/5/04</b>	<b>1:00pm-6:00pm</b>	<b>RI Career Development Day</b>	<b>URI – Providence Campus</b>

The Employer Service Unit aggressively solicits resumes from individuals searching for employment and distributes them to companies who could use their specific services. The eleven (11) Employer Service Representatives (ESR's) also serve as an invaluable source of support for businesses as well. Information on tax credits, grants, training dollars, prevailing wages and hiring trends are just a few of the areas of expertise that they share with employers. The Employer Service Unit is designed to help your business connect with success. For more information on how they may be of help to you call: **Employer Service Unit at 1-800-616-JOBS (5627)**